United Nations A/54/590

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 November 1999
English
Original: Arabic

Fifty-fourth session
Agenda item 102

Training and research

Report of the Second Committee

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I. Introduction

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-fourth session the item entitled "Training and research" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 35th, 39th and 43rd meetings, on 9, 12 and 24 November 1999. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/54/SR.35, 39 and 43). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, from 6 to 8 October (see A/C.2/54/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (A/54/480);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reflections of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on development and possible reformatting of the Institute (A/54/390);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the progress report by the Director of the United Nations Staff College at Turin, Italy (A/54/481);

(d) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

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4. At the 35th meeting, on 9 November, the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the Director of the United Nations Staff College made introductory statements (see A/C.2/54/SR.35).

5. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research also made a statement (see A/C.2/54/SR.35).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.26 and A/C.2/54/L.42

6. At the 35th meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Finland, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Union, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy" (A/C.2/54/L.26). Subsequently, Argentina, Armenia, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, Croatia, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Hungary, Iceland, Kyrgyzstan, Malawi, Malta, Morocco, Nicaragua, Norway, Paraguay, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, San Marino, Senegal, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Venezuela joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* the decision taken by the Secretary-General in January 1996 to establish, in Turin, Italy, the United Nations Staff College Project for an initial period of five years,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training based on an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies,

"*Noting*, in this respect, the pertinent recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit,

"*Recalling* Economic and Social Council decision 1999/271 of 28 July 1999,

"1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress report submitted by the Director of the United Nations Staff College on the activities undertaken so far by the College, in particular those aimed at strengthening the performance of the United Nations in the areas of economic and social development and international peace and security and promoting a common United Nations management culture by strengthening the capacity of the resident coordinator system and by supporting the process of change and reform in the United Nations, in particular at the field level;

"2. *Also notes with appreciation* the relevant technical, logistical and administrative contributions provided by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the Administrative Committee on Coordination and relevant United Nations agencies and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the Staff College based on a full and independent evaluation of the implementation and completion of the activities undertaken by the College (incorporating the College's corporate plan and programme of action) and including recommendations on the future status, funding and operations of the College after the conclusion of its pilot phase in December 2000."

7. At the 43rd meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Giovanni Brauzzi (Italy), introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy" (A/C.2/54/L.42), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.26.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.42 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.42, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.26 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/54/L.30 and A/C.2/54/L.46

10. At the 39th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Guyana, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/54/L.30), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997 and 53/195 of 15 December 1998,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General concerning training institutions and training programmes within the United Nations and the reflections of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the development and possible reforming of the Institute,

"*Welcoming* the efforts for the consolidation of the restructuring process of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

"*Expressing its appreciation* to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

"*Noting* that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and underlining the need to address urgently this discrepancy,

"*Reiterating* that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

"1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, and underlines the need for United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

"2. *Reaffirms also* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

"3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

"4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes and, in this context, underlines the need to develop further and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

"5. *Requests* the Board of Trustees to continue to attract experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute, and stresses that the Institute's courses should primarily focus on development issues;

"6. *Renews its appeal* its appeal to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

"7. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to continue its efforts to address the gap between the decline in contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and the increased participation in its programmes;

"8. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider organizing events of the Institute at additional sites, particularly the cities hosting regional commissions;

"9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute and with United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and means systematically to utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

"10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to consider reclassification of the post of Executive Director, to make the level commensurate with the qualifications and increasing responsibilities required, and underlines the need to ensure continuity in the management of the Institute;

"11. *Renews its call* to the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations Offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

"12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution."

11. At the 43rd meeting, on 24 November, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Giovanni Brauzzi, introduced a draft resolution entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" (A/C.2/54/L.46), which he submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.30.

12. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.46 (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

13. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.46, draft resolution A/C.2/54/L.30 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

III. Recommendations of the Second Committee

14. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
United Nations Staff College in Turin, Italy

The General Assembly,

Recalling the decision taken by the Secretary-General in January 1996 to establish, in Turin, Italy, the United Nations Staff College project for an initial period of five years,

Reaffirming the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training based on an effective division of labour among the relevant institutions and bodies,

Noting, in this respect, the pertinent recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit,[1]

Recalling Economic and Social Council decision 1999/271 of 28 July 1999,

1. *Notes with appreciation* the progress report submitted by the Director of the United Nations Staff College[2] on the activities undertaken so far by the College, in particular those aimed at strengthening the performance of the United Nations in the areas of economic and social development and international peace and security and promoting a common United Nations management culture;

2. *Also notes with appreciation* the relevant technical, logistic and administrative contributions provided by the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consult with the Administrative Committee on Coordination and relevant United Nations organizations and to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session a report on the College, based on a full and independent evaluation of the implementation and completion of the activities undertaken by the College (incorporating the College's corporate plan and programme of action) and including recommendations on the future status, funding and operations of the College after the conclusion of its pilot phase in December 2000.

Draft resolution II
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 48/207 of 21 December 1993, 49/125 of 19 December 1994, 50/121 of 20 December 1995, 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997 and 53/195 of 15 December 1998,

[1] See A/52/559, annex.

[2] A/54/481.

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[3] and the reflections of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on development and possible reformatting of the Institute,[4]

Welcoming the efforts towards consolidation of the restructuring process of the Institute and the recent progress made by the Institute in its various programmes and activities, including the improved cooperation that has been established with other organizations of the United Nations system and with regional and national institutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting that contributions to the General Fund of the Institute have not increased along with the increased participation of the developed countries in the training programmes, and stressing the urgent need to address this discrepancy,

Reiterating that training activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of international affairs and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Reaffirms* the importance of a coordinated United Nations system-wide approach to research and training, and underlines the need for United Nations training and research institutions to avoid duplication in their work;

2. *Also reaffirms* the relevance of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in view of the growing importance of training within the United Nations and the training requirements of States, and the relevance of research activities related to training undertaken by the Institute within its mandate;

3. *Stresses* the need for the Institute to strengthen further its cooperation with other United Nations institutes and relevant national, regional and international institutes;

4. *Welcomes* the progress made in building partnerships between the Institute and other agencies and bodies of the United Nations system with respect to their training programmes and, in this context, underlines the need to develop further and expand the scope of these partnerships, particularly at the country level;

5. *Stresses* the need for continuity in the management of the Institute in order to ensure efficient and effective completion of the process of restructuring and revitalization;

6. *Requests* the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research to intensify its efforts to attract experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition for the preparation of the relevant training materials for the programmes and activities of the Institute, and stresses that the Institute's courses should focus primarily on development issues;

7. *Renews its appeal* to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the successful restructuring and revitalization of the Institute;

8. *Encourages* the Board of Trustees of the Institute to continue its efforts to address the discrepancy between the decline in contributions to the General Fund of the Institute and the increase in participation in its programmes;

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[3] A/54/480.

[4] A/54/390, annex.

9. *Also encourages* the Board of Trustees to consider organizing events of the Institute at additional sites, including the cities hosting regional commissions, in order to promote greater participation and to reduce costs;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Institute and with United Nations funds and programmes, to continue to explore ways and means systematically to utilize the Institute in the execution of training and capacity-building programmes;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the services rendered by the Executive Director of the Institute in light of the challenges emanating from the increased responsibilities encountered by his office;

12. *Renews its call* to the Secretary-General to continue to explore all possible ways and means to provide additional facilities to the Institute for maintaining its offices and for conducting programmes and training courses that are provided at no cost to States and to their representatives accredited to United Nations offices in New York, Nairobi, Geneva and Vienna;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session on the implementation of the present resolution.